



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

10:00 A.M.

**Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Room 1060
Los Angeles, California 90012**

Melanie Ramsayer, President
Vacant, Vice-President
Tariq Khero
Terri Macellaro
Kathleen Riordan
Ruthanne Secunda

Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For information please call (213) 482-9501.

Si require servicios de traduccion, favor de notificar la oficina con 24 horas por anticipado.

COMMISSION MEETING

1. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Annual Election of Commission Officers for 2010-2011
- B. Appointment of Commissioner to oversee Appeals
- C. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2010
- D. Oral Report by the Commissioners on Meetings and Events attended

2. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

None

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Report on Reserve Animal Control Officer (RACO) Program.

Update on the status of restoring the RACO Program, including funding sources

B. Marketing Discussion

Discussion and input from the public on effective and efficient ideas for marketing the Department and direction to staff relative to ideas presented

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction and on items not on the Agenda.)

Public Comments: The Brown Act prohibits the Board and staff from responding to the speakers' comments. Some of the matters raised in public comment may appear on a future agenda.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., November 9, 2010, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

AGENDAS - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Regular Meetings are held at City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, in Los Angeles, CA 90012. The agendas for Board meetings contain a brief general description of those items to be considered at the meetings. Board Agendas are available at the Department of Animal Services (Department), Administrative Division, 221 North Figueroa Street, 5th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Board Agendas may also be viewed on the 2nd floor Public Bulletin Board in City Hall East, 200 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Internet users may also access copies of present and prior agenda items, copies of the Board Calendar, MP-3 audio files of meetings as well as electronic copies of approved minutes on the Department's World Wide Web Home Page site at **<http://www.laanimalservices.com/CommissionAgendas.htm>**

Three (3) members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Some items on the Agenda may be approved without any discussion.

The Board Secretary will announce the items to be considered by the Board. The Board will hear the presentation on the topic and gather additional information from Department Staff. Once presentations have finished, the Board President will ask if any Board Member or member of the public wishes to speak on one or more of these items.

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com

Each speaker called before the Commission will have one (1) minute to express their comments and concerns on matters placed on the agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT AT BOARD MEETINGS – Public Participation on Agenda Items.

Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on agenda items after the item is called and before the Board takes action on the item, unless the opportunity for public participation on the item was previously provided to all interested members of the public at a public meeting of a Committee of the Board and the item has not substantially changed since the Committee heard the item. When speaking to an agenda item other than during Public Comment (see Public Comment below), the speaker shall limit his or her comments to the specific item under consideration (California Government Code, Section 54954.3).

Public Comment. The Board will provide an opportunity for public comment at every regular meeting of the Board. Members of the public may address the Board on any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board as part of Public Comment.

Speaker Cards. Members of the public wishing to speak are to fill out one speaker card for each agenda item on which they wish to speak and present it to the Board secretary before the item is called.

Time Limit for Speakers. Speakers addressing the Board will be limited to one (1) minute of speaking time for each agenda item except in public comment which is limited to three (3) minutes. The Chairperson, with the approval of a majority of the Board, may for good cause extend any speaker's time by increments of up to one (1) minute. Total speaker time on any agenda item will be limited to ten (10) minutes per item and fifteen (15) minutes for Public Comment, unless extended as above.

Brown Act. These rules shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section § 54950 et seq.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT. Speakers are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from personal attacks or use of profanity or language that may incite violence.

All persons present at Board meetings are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from disrupting the meeting, interfering with the rights of others to address the Board and/or interfering with the conduct of business by the Board.

In the event that any speaker does not comply with the foregoing requirements, or if a speaker does not address the specific item under consideration, the speaker may be ruled out of order, their speaking time forfeited and the Chairperson may call upon the next speaker.

The Board, by majority vote, may order the removal from the meeting of any speaker or audience member continuing to behave in a disruptive manner after being warned by the Chairperson regarding their behavior. Section 403 of the California Penal Code states as follows: "Every person who, without authority of law, willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character, other than an assembly or meeting referred to in Section 302 of the Penal Code or Section 18340 of the Elections Code, is guilty of a misdemeanor".

VOTING AND DISPOSITION OF ITEMS – Most items require a majority vote of the entire membership of the Board (3 members). When debate on an item is completed, the Board President will instruct the Secretary to "call the roll". Every member present must vote for or against each item; abstentions are not permitted unless there is a Conflict of Interest for which the Board member is obliged to abstain from voting. The Secretary will announce the votes on each item. Any member of the Board may move to "reconsider" any vote on any item on the agenda, except to adjourn, suspend the Rules, or where an intervening event has deprived the Board of jurisdiction, providing that said member originally voted on the prevailing side of the item. The motion to "reconsider" shall only be in order once during the meeting, and once during the next regular meeting. The member requesting reconsideration shall identify for all members present the Agenda number and subject matter previously voted upon. A motion to reconsider is not debatable and shall require an affirmative vote of three members of the Board.

When the Board has failed by sufficient votes to approve or reject an item, and has not lost jurisdiction over the matter, or has not caused it to be continued beyond the next regular meeting, the issue is again placed on the next agenda for the following meeting for the purpose of allowing the Board to again vote on the matter.



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1. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

- A. Dangerous Animal Revocation Case Number: DR 10363 EV
Appellant: Don and Paula Barbier
Complaining Witness: Kevin Boasberg
Field Operations Supervisor, West Valley Animal Care Center, Lt. Troy Boswell
Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
L A ANIMAL SERVICES



Date: October 22, 2010

To: Board of Animal Services Commissioners

From: Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager

Subject: Update on Restoring the Reserve Animal Control Officer (RACO) Program

At the Board meeting of February 23, 2010, the Board received information about the Department's efforts to restore the Reserve Animal Control Officer Program (RACO), originally created in September 1982. From its inception, the mission of the RACO Program has been to serve the residents of Los Angeles by supplementing the Animal Control Officer workforce with well-trained and dedicated volunteers. RACOs are a Department-trained and equipped staff of part-time volunteers who develop their skills and interests in humane law enforcement while simultaneously filling gaps due to shortages in the ranks of the Animal Control Officers. The Program serves as both a training ground and screening exercise for people interested in pursuing animal care and control work as professional goals, or who seek a high level of participation and accomplishment in their volunteer efforts. Over the years that the Program was active, over 100 people completed training, and at the peak almost 30 RACOs were available to provide service. Several officers and supervisors currently employed by the Department got their start as RACOs, and although new RACO opportunities have not been offered in the last several years, one RACO is still volunteering, providing valuable support as part of the Animal Control Officer team in the West Los Angeles District.

In response to some of the retention problems in the past, the program now requires a commitment of sixteen hours of volunteer service each month at any one of our six Animal Care Centers for three months prior to the first class. This commitment will provide a great opportunity to serve and observe. Prospective candidates will learn about care and handling of a variety of animals, interface with Center, Medical, and Field Staff, work with Supervisors and become familiar with day-to-day operations. Existing volunteers, staff, and new volunteers all have an opportunity to apply.

Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age, a high school graduate or equivalent, and must have a current driver's license. A background check, drug and alcohol screening will be performed as a part of the process. RACOs must be able to lift at least 70 pounds and sometimes in excess of 70 pounds. Other physical agility requirements, such as stooping, crawling, and bending, will also be tested.

We expect the training program to run for approximately six months with a schedule of four hours on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings with classroom and field training during the program. Uniforms, equipment and training will be provided by the Department (at no cost to the RACO). We do, however, require a one year commitment

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of sixteen hours per month after graduating from the class. We are currently accepting applications.

Funding for a class of eight RACOs, is estimated at about \$18,000. The Department applied for a grant from PetCo Foundation for the inaugural class, but was not successful. However, as reported to the Board on July 27, 2010, the Department has committed to using a portion of a recent \$135,000 bequest to the Department for general animal welfare use, so that a RACO class may begin in November 2010. Results from this first class can be used to help increase interest in funding future classes. Also, volunteer Paul Darrigo has undertaken a significant campaign to raise awareness about the RACO program and its potential benefits among the City's neighborhood councils. Through his diligent work with the councils, \$14,500 has been committed for transfer to the Department for the next RACO class plus we have received \$300.00 in donations.